

Message Text

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ACTION HUD-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

OES-07 COME-00 EB-07 /039 W

-----118536 192104Z /70

R 191458Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0006

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10386

DEPT PASS HUD FOR HANCOCK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN UR US SENV ENRG

SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: BUILDING FOR EXTREME CLIMATES (10
.05)

VISIT OF WALTER SHERMAN AND H E HARR

REF: STATE 133858

1. US SPECIALISTS WALTER SHERMAN AND H E HARR RECENTLY COMPLETED 19- DAY PROGRAM IN THE USSR, DURING WHICH THEY VISITED SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTERS AND CONTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS IN MOSCOW, BAKU, YEREVAN, TBILISI, AND KISHINEV. US SPECIALISTS OBSERVED SOVIET TECHNIQUES IN SUBJECTING LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURAL MODELS (UP TO ONE TON) TO STRESS ONCENTRIFUGES, TO TEST POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKES ON BUILDINGS, DAMS AND OTHER MAJOR STRUCTURES. SOVIETS WERE FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSING THEIR WORK AND GENERALLY COOPERATIVE IN ARRANGING VISITS TO INSTITUTES OF INTEREST TO US SPECIALISTS. ALTHOUGH US SPECIALISTS WERE DISAPPOINTED AT INABILITY TO SEE LARGE SHAKING TABLE AT THE TBILISI SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER, THEY BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST WESTERNERS TO SEE THE LARGE (1200 KG CAPACITY AND 11 METERS DIAMETER) CENTRIFUGE AT THE SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN BAKU. US SPECIALISTS
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WERE IMPRESSED BY THE QUALITY OF THE DESIGN AND INSTRUMENTATION IN THIS CENTRIFUGE, WHICH REPORTEDLY IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGHEST ACCELERATION IN WORLD.

2. ACCORDING TO DR SHERMAN, THE US HAS NO EQUIVALENT TO SOVIET TECHNIQUES IN THIS FIELD. US GENERALLY USES COMPUTER-BASED MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO PREDICT THE EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKES

ON LARGE STRUCTURES. LACKING US COMPUTER CAPACITY, SOVIETS BUILT LARGE SCALE MODELS AND SUBMIT THEM TO ACTUAL PHYSICAL STRESS ON LARGE CENTRIFUGES AND OTHER DEVICES. SOVIETS HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR USING EXPLOSIVES TO TEST THE EFFECTS OF SHOCK ON LARGE STRUCTURES.

3. US SPECIALISTS BELIEVE THAT THE DIFFERENT US AND SOVIET APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM OFFER ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR COOPERATION. THE US COULD REFINE AND EXPAND ITS MODELING TECHNIQUES ON THE BASIS OF SOVIET TESTS, WHICH THE SOVIETS COULD USE US MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO REFINE THE DATA OBTAINED FROM THEIR OWN TESTS. SHERMAN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR A US SPECIALIST TO SPEND SEVERAL MONTHS AT A SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER IN THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS WORKING IN THIS FIELD, ESPECIALLY THE CENTER IN BAKU OR TBILISI.

4. REQUEST DEPT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH US-USSR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN SEISMOLOGY.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION HUD
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 133858
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1819338
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: BUILDING FOR EXTREME CLIMATES (10 .05) VISIT OF WALTER SHERMAN AND H E HARR
TAGS: TGEN, SENV, ENRG, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f679a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009